HEART OF A LION

Faced with a new culture and the memories of a harrowing past, Jonah Wafula refuses to quit.
Reflecting on Willie's Last Game

Every so often I’m reminded of just how precious life is and how important community is to each of us. This fall, on a rainy Oregon weekend, those two truths hit home for me with the loss of Willie Stoffer, a former George Fox student and a diehard fan of our Bruin football team.

Willie had struggled with various forms of cancer for many years. And yet, in the face of serious disease, he was a constant encouragement to many of us. If you looked carefully on a Saturday afternoon during football games, you would always see Willie sitting in a wheelchair, close to the field, cheering the team on. He gave the team life and inspiration, and in turn they provided him with a sense of community.

Leading up to our final home game in early November, Willie’s father Brad informed us his son was not doing well. The doctors said there was little else they could do – Willie’s death was a matter of time. Brad told me the Friday before that it would be unlikely they would make it to the game. Willie was just too weak. Then, early Saturday morning, I got a text from Brad saying Willie just wanted to come to campus for a few minutes and meet with the team. Brad pulled in and we moved Willie into the locker room, where he was invited into the players-only meeting.

Later, while Willie watched the team warm up on the field, two players ran over and rolled his wheelchair into the middle of the team huddle. You could hear the cheers and words of encouragement.

Then something happened one rarely sees on athletic fields. The coach of our opponent, Scott Westering of Pacific Lutheran University – a committed Christian and a friend of our coach, Chris Casey – learned about Willie and his struggle with cancer.

He asked if his team could give Willie a cheer and pray for him. The next thing we knew, the entire PLU team gathered around Willie. Every player hugged him, and Coach Westering kneeled and prayed with him. Two teams preparing to face each other in an important game took time to embrace a young man and walk with him, even if only for a few minutes.

When the game started, we took Willie back to the car. We gave him one last hug and a word of encouragement. All of us deeply wanted Willie to know that, even though his life was brief, he made a significant difference in the lives he touched at George Fox. And we all knew that, even in our pain, God is present. After the service, every so often I’m reminded of just how precious life is and how important community is to each of us.

Willie Stoffer, who made an indelible impact on the campus community and all those who knew him.

President 
Robin Baker
George Fox Ranked ‘Best College for Your Money’ in Oregon

George Fox once again earned a spot in U.S. News and World Report’s 2018 “America’s Best Colleges” issue, ranking No. 23 out of 141 schools in the publication’s “Best Regional Universities West” category. The recognition has become an annual fall tradition for the university, which has made the cut every year but one since U.S. News first published its well-known college rankings in 1987.

In addition to being included in the publication’s overall “Best Colleges” list, George Fox received a new designation in 2018, ranking No. 17 on the list of 51 “Best Value Schools” in the “Regional Universities West” category. The university’s engineering program was also recognized, coming in at No. 75 out of 200 schools selected in the “Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs” category. Rounding out the rankings, George Fox was included in the magazine’s “Best Colleges for Veterans” list, and again ranked high nationally (No. 75) among all colleges – regardless of region or size – in the percentage of students who study abroad.

Other noteworthy rankings from national publications during the 2017-18 academic year include Forbes’ version of “America’s Best Colleges” and Washington Monthly’s “Best Bang for the Buck” list.

Money

1 (51) George Fox University
2 (52) University of Portland
3 (52) Oregon State University
4 (56) Reed College
5 (58-59) Pacific University
6 (58-59) Willamette University
7 (60-62) Linfield College
8 (65) Lewis & Clark College
9 (65) Lewis & Clark College

Nine Oregon schools made Money magazine’s list of 71 “Best Colleges for Your Money,” pared down from more than 2,400 considered.

University Included Among ‘America’s Best Colleges’ for 30th Time

Men’s Basketball Team Helps Build Court for Kids in Panama

Living out their team motto, “MBFO” (“Men Built for Others”), members of the university’s men’s basketball team left the comforts of home this summer to spend eight days in the impoverished community of El Chorro, Panama, building a multi-purpose sports court. All 16 players on the roster, joined by head coach Mace Hamilton and two assistant coaches, lived in host homes and teamed with a local construction crew and community members to build a court that will serve as a safe place for children to play. Previously, the isolated town of 700 had only an improvised dirt court with wooden hoops.

“We want all our guys to leave our program as servant-leaders,” says Hamilton, who serves on the Courts for Kids board. “We want our guys to understand that being a man is about being emotional, having compassion for people, serving, sacrificing, and being impactful in your societies and in your communities.”

“For Hamilton and the Bruins, the trip accomplished two things: The team grew closer together and the Bruins learned in a tangible, hands-on way what “MBFO” means.

“The reason this trip was so important,” Hamilton continues, “is that it got us outside our comfort zones and reminded us of the importance of serving others – of doing something for someone else.”

Hamilton hopes to make a Courts for Kids trip about every three or four years, allowing all players coming through the program to experience it at least once.

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University Sets Undergraduate Enrollment Record, Tops 4,000 Total Students

A record number of traditional undergraduate students has propelled George Fox past the 4,000-student mark for a second straight year, with 4,080 students enrolling this fall.

Boistered by the arrival of 628 freshmen – a number that matched last year’s record total – and the largest traditional undergraduate enrollment in school history 12,443, George Fox broke the 4,000-student barrier again after topping the mark for the first time last fall. Rounding out the university’s student body are 1,281 graduate and continuing education students and 284 in the adult degree program.

Of the 628 incoming freshmen, 121 are first-generation college students and 173 are students of color. Overall, total enrollment has increased more than seven-fold since 1986, when 549 students attended.

Chemistry Student Earns NASA Scholarship

While she doesn’t plan on taking a trip to space anytime soon, George Fox junior chemistry major Jenia Yiu is conducting research that got the attention of the Oregon NASA Space Grant Consortium, which awarded her a $5,000 scholarship for the 2017-18 school year.

Yiu was one of only 10 recipients in the state of Oregon to receive the funds, which go to undergraduate students who "demonstrate a commitment to their academic pursuit of a STEM-related degree," according to NASA. The awardees also demonstrated how their field of study relates to the NASA vision and the activities of one or more of the NASA mission directorates.

For the past two summers, Yiu has worked with organic chemistry professor Jing Hao to research the synthesis of a thermo-responsive polymer that can be used for drug delivery, specifically anti-cancer drugs. Ultimately, Yiu plans to use her chemistry degree to pursue a career as a pharmacist.

"I originally thought I didn’t qualify, since these scholarships seemed to be geared toward engineering, math and computer science majors," says Yiu, a native of Redmond, Washington. "Then I found out it also applies to those majoring in biology, chemistry and other sciences. So, I wrote up an essay about my academic pursuits, my research and my interest in molecular structures found in foods, vitamins and medications."

Over the past two summers, Yiu created four different polymers that are thermo-responsive at different temperatures. Her polymers are able to form a micelle – essentially a shell that the anti-cancer drugs can be loaded into. At a specific temperature, the micelle breaks open so that the drug can be released.

Yiu presented her research at the Mendeck College Science Research Conference in Spokane, Washington, in November — an honor, she believes, that helped her resume stand out among the NASA scholarship applicants. She will also share her findings at the American Chemical Society’s national meeting and exposition March 18-22 in New Orleans.

She credits her professors with setting her up for success. "All the professors in the chemistry department are great," Yiu says. "I really like the small classroom sizes, and they really get to know you. I feel like George Fox prepares you well, especially when it comes to research opportunities. I was able to do research after my freshman year, which doesn’t really happen a whole lot at other schools."
Seven Individuals, One Team Inducted into Sports Hall of Fame

Joseph Clair (William Penn Honors Program) published a book, On Education, Formation, Character and the Last Purpose of Learning; in November. Part ofBloomsbury Publishing’s new Reading Augustine series, the book claims that Augustine’s Christian vision of higher education is worth recovering and works out a practical roadmap for reconnecting the intellectual enterprise of learning to a fulfilled life of knowing God and loving others as college campuses today.

Don Powers (biology) and two colleagues published an article, “Using whole-group metacognitive rate and behavior to assess the energetics of courtship in red-sided garter snakes,” in the August 2017 (Volume 130) issue of the scientific journal Animal Behavior.

Mark McMillon (PsyD) released a book, The Science of Virtue: Why Positive Psychology Matters to the Church (BuzzPress), in August. The book shows that the new science of virtue—the field of positive psychology—can serve as a bridge point between science and the church and can help renew meaningful conversation.


John Spencer (education) and colleague A.J. Iuliano co-wrote a book last summer, Empower: What Happens When Students Own Their Learning (Inpress). In it, the authors provide teachers, coaches and administrators with a roadmap that will inspire innovation, authentic learning experiences, and practical ways to empower students to pursue their passions while in school. At the peak of its popularity, the book reached the top-200 list in sales on Amazon.

Tim Thortonardis (Christian studies) teamed with alumnus John S. Kline to write a book, God in the Details: A Biblical Survey of the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures (Kendall-Hunt Publishers), published in September. The book presents the story of the Bible in a systematic yet straightforward manner. Readers are introduced to a broad investigation of the Hebrew and Greek languages, providing the highlights of each book in the Bible as well as historical and cultural details to refresh the stories and provide depth of understanding.

Brian R. Bulter (computer science) published the article “Estimation of Localized Cerebral Power Spectra via Oxygen Desaturation–Disordered Breathing Event Cross Correlation” in the April 2017 (Volume 40) Issue of SLEEP, a journal focusing on research related to sleep and sleeping disorders.

Nicole M. Eunzinger (education) is lead author of a chapter, titled “An Illustration of Scholarly Inquiry from the Cognitive Perspective: The Development of an Integer Activity for Prospective Elementary or Middle School Teachers,” in the book Building Empower: What Happens When Students Own Their Learning (Inpress).


Ben Hartley (Christian studies) published three books in 2017. Two chapters—“Mission: Agnes C. L. Dorenbough, Early Pietsist for Ethnology” and “Engaging the Religious Commitment of Other: Anthropologists and Their Data in Dialogue”—are included in On Knowing Humanity: Insights from Theology for Anthropology (Kendall-Hunt). The latter was co-authored previously with four Eastern University colleagues. He also co-authored, with Kristen Oh and Glen Alton Messer, “Get on the Cart!”: Wesleyan Discipleship in an Age of Endemic Incarceration,” for the book Theological Reflections about Mass Incarceration: Biblical Foundations and Justice Imperatives (Paulist Press).

Rebecca Berens (sacred studies) contributed to the book Diversity Matters: Race, Ethnicity, and the Future of Christian Higher Education (Abilene Christian University Press), published in August. Hernandez served as a co-editor, and she and Valdivinos wrote chapters, while Eunzinger wrote a chapter of a chapter. The book addresses the need for institutions to have meaningful conversations about race and ethnicity and offers leaders a roadmap as they think through how their campuses can serve all students well.

Three track and field stars, a baseball player, a football player, a coach/administrator, a men’s cross country team and a legendary voice of the Bruin notes were inducted as the 22nd class of the university’s Sports Hall of Fame in September. The 2017 inductees included track and field athlete Amadu Koroma, Todd Res and Michelle Forbes, baseball standout Derrick Jones, football star Perry Kimberly, coach/administrator Craig Taylor, the 1977 men’s cross country team and former PA announcer administrator Craig Taylor, the 1977 men’s cross country team and former PA announcer administrator Craig Taylor, the 1977 men’s cross country team and former PA announcer administrator Craig Taylor, the 1977 men’s cross country team and former PA announcer administrator Craig Taylor, the 1977 men’s cross country team and former PA announcer

Amadu Koroma
Michelle Forbes
Todd Res
Derrick Jones
Perry Kimberly
Craig Taylor
Don Staples

1977 men’s cross country team

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Why I Teach

By Yune Tran
Associate Professor, Undergraduate Teacher Education

"Maestra Tran, gracias por ayudar a nuestra hija en la escuela."
– Esmeralda’s parents

These kind words were written as a thank you note from parents of a former elementary student, Esmeralda (pseudonym), when I was a public school teacher in Compton, California. Esmeralda was diagnosed with mild aphasia and had difficulty expressing herself verbally. In terms of receptive language and written communication, she was high functioning, completed assignments on time and delivered quality work. However, she was incredibly timid in class and rarely volunteered answers or participated in group discussion.

I had limited tools and lacked the specialized training in speech therapy to support Esmeralda. My attempts to build her confidence in class through praise and positive reinforcement helped slightly, but the biggest gains came from me learning on her parents for answers. This proved to be a real challenge given that her parents spoke very little English and my one semester of college Spanish was not adequate to carry a conversation. However, we managed to communicate somehow, which eventually led to several invitations to join Esmeralda’s family after school for a meal at their house.

Most times I politely declined, keeping to professional boundaries and fearing the unknown. Home visits were a relatively unfamiliar concept – something that rarely occurred given the school community was ridden by poverty, gun violence, homicides, and crime from unsettled gang wars. My own hesitation and misconceptions also clouded my judgment, until one day when my gut responded positively and I accompanied Esmeralda home after school. That day brought a new perspective into her life, a respect for true patience, a reflection of parental goals, and an appreciation of the basic necessities I often took for granted. As the year progressed, Esmeralda made gains in and out of school, developed friendships with peers, and achieved well beyond what I ever could have imagined.

"I am grateful for the help you offered Jane. You’re the reason she stayed in school so long."
– Jane’s mother

These words came from a mother of a teacher candidate as she shook my hand at a senior commissioning celebration at George Fox. Jane (pseudonym) had many goals in college and life, some realistic and others idealistic. She was most interested in completing her degree and becoming an independent, mature adult with the ability to figure things out on her own. Jane was confident and pretty outspoken in class, offering opinions on topics that she was passionate about. She referenced experiences or perspectives gained from various encounters and displayed the aura of someone who had life put together. Jane rarely sought any academic help, but after having me for several education classes, she eventually opened up and requested appointments for clarification on assignments. On several of these office visits Jane sought my advice on managing personal problems related to her health or strategies for overcoming family conflict. I admitted to Jane that I’m always willing to listen, but won’t always have the best answers due to our different cultural frames of reference. However, she was willing to share many facets of her life as we problem-solved together. Jane’s resiliency allowed her to overcome incredible hardships, excel through school, and advance in her career as a young elementary school teacher.

Encounters such as the ones described with Esmeralda and Jane are natural as teachers and students develop organic relationships that move from inside to outside the classroom. Students often connect to their teachers differently than they would to parents or relatives. And while the contexts and ages between the two cases differ, there are many commonalities: relationships, perseverance, humility, and parents’ educational aspirations for their daughters.

Parents of all backgrounds desire success for their children, regardless of class, language or cultural upbringing. I think of my own parents who immigrated to their adopted country seeking a better life and a good education for their children. I think of Esmeralda’s parents, who extended hospitality and a meal to someone who barely spoke their language in order to ensure her success in school. I think of Jane’s mother, whose joy led to tears as she shared stories about Jane while celebrating her accomplishments. I think of my own children and my desire that they, too, will find that one teacher to connect with for mentorship, guidance and personal attention.

Hopefully, this teacher will take the extra time to check biases at the front door, genuinely listen, nurture, and groom their potential for excellence. I am humbled by the many interactions that I have had with parents throughout my career. I have come to appreciate and better understand what a parent’s gratitude truly means, and I am honored to be a part of each student’s life at this critical juncture.

To every parent, I thank you for the opportunity to teach your son or daughter and for the priceless perspective that you have taught me. You are among the reasons that I still teach today!
The nightmares aren’t what you would expect. Not from the terror of huddling in their home through the dark night, waiting as gunfire exploded outside. Not the cries and bloody limbs the next morning as his mother carried the baby and urged him and his siblings to look straight ahead and move quickly, fleeing the Kenyan neighborhood with many others before violence resumed. Jonah Wafula’s nightmares, rare now, spring from a time of relative peace on his uncle’s farm, several years later. A decrepit farm that he, his mother and siblings repaired – after first killing dozens of venomous snakes hiding in the cracks of the crumbling mud and dung shack built from the hard clay of Uganda. They would kill dozens more as they struck clay, forcing it to give way for a garden.

Even now, in the safety of Western Oregon where the nearest cousin to those serpents is a slender garter snake, Wafula is sure to strike first. Don’t bother telling him these snakes don’t bite.

STRONG MOTHER, STRONG SON
Wafula is the son of a watchman, or security guard, for a hotel on the beach of Kenya’s second-largest city, Mombasa. His mother led the women in their church. He began life in this international city, with the Indian Ocean on the east and all of Kenya on the west.

Then his father caught malaria and couldn’t work. His mother fried and sold fish, trying to earn enough to feed their family of two wives and nine children. It wasn’t enough. Before long, only neighbors and their church stood between them and starvation.

Wafula was 6 the day his school sent him home early. He remembers his mother and sisters wailing. Their father had died.

“Why don’t you marry? Find someone to take care of the children?”

“My mother,” Wafula says, “she’s a pretty strong woman, so she said, ‘I’m not going to marry. I’m going to take care of my kids myself.’”

Wafula remembers this. And he remembers, in the difficult years that followed, his mother’s stern admonition: “Do not beg. Just work hard. Work hard for your stuff, so you appreciate it.”

His mother’s determination wove into the fabric of his soul. She did not give up, and neither would he. Later, Wafula would be challenged by an entirely different world – one where he would face choices to accept gifts and opportunities he never asked for.

A NIGHT OF TERROR
Soon after his father’s death, Wafula’s family sold everything, rented two trucks, and drove dusty back roads – more than 600 miles – to Uganda to bury his father in the land of his birth. The coffin and Wafula’s mothers and four sisters rode in the back of one truck. The five boys and their few indispensible belongings filled the back of the second. Not precisely legal, but all they could afford.

In Wafula’s world, family connections keep widows and orphans alive. An uncle took the three oldest siblings to his home in Uganda. Another uncle offered what used to be a shop in Kenya for Wafula, his mother, and the remaining three siblings. His second mother remarried, leaving her two daughters with Wafula’s mother. The family slept on the floor of the windowless brick room and cooked in their outdoor kitchen: a ring of three stones containing a fire. Wafula babysat for a neighbor, and the family collected sand along the road to sell. They made a good profit on the sand.

Then came that night. The gunshots, the screams. Wafula’s mother gathered her children in the dark, her arms outstretched to cover them. At first light they ran, with so many others, leaving everything behind. A day or two later, the entire area had been burned.

His mother remembered the way to her mother-in-law’s village – a woman Wafula had never met. They squeezed into his grandmother’s thatch-roofed hut. “She wasn’t happy about it,” he recalls. “The house was full, no food. She told my mother, ‘You have to find a way to get out of here.’”

Then his mother heard the news: Large white buses were coming. They would take the refugees to safety.

CHOOSING TO STAY TOGETHER
Memories of the United Nations refugee camp in Tororo, Uganda, still make Wafula smile. “It was awesome,” he recalls. “Life changed then because police were around us, food was there, water: They gave us land to plant food. It was pretty nice. “You know the clothes you guys donate? The U.N. brings them from the United States. They put them in a big pile. I remember the clothes we used to wear. They all smelled like really good perfume. … Some had money in them.”

It had been two years since his father died. Two years of struggle. Now they were safe. They played with other children. They attended school. They wore shoes and slept on mattresses with
They attend high school, graduate in their 20s. Wafula arrived in the U.S. at age 15 with the equivalent of a fifth-grade education. Working for him was not easy. He was stern, demanding. Yet when Wafula returns to Uganda, he first will look for his uncle. ‘If it wasn’t for him, I don’t know where I would be,’ he says. ‘He brought us together.’

When Wafula’s older siblings began making poor choices, his uncle sent the family to his farm — a crumbling shack with nothing more than weeds growing in the resistant land. His mother was determined and grew a garden, but food was scarce. For nine years now she has raised her children alone. Then, one day, 15-year-old Jonah told her about a mzungu — a white person — teaching tennis at a nearby orphanage. His life was about to change again.

CHOOSING TO LEAVE
Sarah Roome, a wife and almost-empty-nester from a farm in Oregon, had begun a tennis program for orphans through the Oregon Teen Tennis Academy. She met Wafula’s mother, who had come to America with Wafula. She introduced them to the tennis program.

For the past three years, Wafula has attended a new high school five times due to visa issues. The hours Roome spent filling out and tracking paperwork, and hounding people by phone and email, added up to months of time. She’s become an expert on paperwork and entered highly structured schools. “After this, do this. After this, do this. I feel like I’m not living,” Wafula says of his first year in America. ‘I’m a machine. I’m not programmed by schedule.’ It was a really tough uphill slog,” Roome says. ‘Studying is hard, often having to do things two or three times until you’re familiar with the system.’ Yet, she says, ‘It’s been absolutely wonderful. We cannot imagine our family without him.’ As far as everyone is concerned, he is their fourth child.

‘I feel like if I learn the easy way I’m not learning for myself,’ he says. ‘I’m not learning my grit. Amazing.’

Along with taking difficult classes, Wafula volunteers in the rapid prototyping lab — a specialized area of engineering. ‘He’s taken the position because he wants to learn about everything in more depth. Meanwhile, tennis — the avenue to opportunity — brought back the promise — your protection, your guidance? Will you remind me what I am and the reason for being here, please?’

CHASED BY LIONS
‘Because of what Jonah has gone through, he brings a perspective on life and sports that completes our tennis team,’ Ninteman says. ‘He helps us look at what we’re doing in a different light — in a light that helps us perform at our best level!’

At one tournament last season, Wafula played the tiebreaker. ‘I’m just so nervous,’ Ninteman asked.

‘Man, I’ve been chased by lions,’ Wafula answered.

Ninteman believes Wafula has the potential to become an All-American. ‘Raw material we’re talking about. But what he’s doing with this part of the world,’ Ninteman says. ‘And things like courage and guts and grit. He has amazing grit. Amazing. And the guys all come along for the ride.’

While the physical focus and exertion of tennis, and the camaraderie of the team, help ground Wafula, his No. 1 goal is to pass his classes. ‘My mother has worked extremely hard raising us,’ he says. ‘My job now is to study, finish my education, get a job I love and provide a better life for the people who have invested their time in my life.’ It’s a vision shared by Ninteman.

‘What I’m most excited about is George Fox being the vehicle for him to have all this fortune,’ Wafula says. ‘I’ve learned a lot, to help his and my teammates. I wish that God has for him to do,’ says Ninteman. ‘It’s cliché, but I really believe it. We’ll help him find his gifts and give him the skills to find his path.’

Wafula’s story is one of overcoming. It is one of poverty, trauma, nightmares, failure, perseverance and pride. The struggle to believe in yourself, to question he’s competitors, to ask for help — is a sign of strength, not weakness. ‘I just believe God has a plan for me,’ he says. ‘I just have to stick to God to help me, to motivate me to learn all this stuff in a different culture. There’s a reason why I came here. My own family is back in Africa, so I have a purpose.’

‘I’d like to get things easy — the simple way. That thing has been in me, and even my professor knew. He says, “Jonah, you study so hard, but your results are little. You need to learn how to study better.”’

Staff at the university’s counseling and learning centers meet with Wafula to help him rethink how he learns. Professors talk through calculus problems. But with his uncle, we could be together again. My mother chose for us to be together.’

Several years passed, and the uncle’s health and wealth declined. Mother and children transitioned from guests to workers at his hotel. He led them and paid for school. Wafula’s mother cooked while the kids pulled weeds and cleaned. Working for him was not easy. He was stern, demanding. Yet when Wafula returns to Uganda, he first will look for his uncle. ‘If it wasn’t for him, I don’t know where I would be,’ he says. ‘He brought us together.’

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I t was the fall of 2013 when he first set foot on the George Fox campus to quarterback the newly relaunched football program. And yet, four and a half years on, Grant Schroeder vividly recalls coach Chris Casey’s vision for what the Bruins would become.

“He painted the vision for the program from day one,” Schroeder says. “He told us we were going to play at a championship level, that we were going to play to excellence, no matter what.”

Unsurprisingly, it took some time for Casey’s seeds of encouragement to produce fruit in the form of winning games. But enduring hardship early on motivated Schroeder and his teammates. “It kept us hungry,” he says. “It kept us humble.”

Schroeder was one of 77 George Fox players who joined the team for a “zero year” – a full season of practice without the prospect of a single game. The following fall, Schroeder and the Bruins lost all but one game. “That was one of the most frustrating seasons of football I’ve had in my life,” he recalls. “I came from a program in high school where I lost five games in four years. Expecting to win was what I believed. That was the toughest year because there was a lot of unrewarded hard work.”

The first breakout moment of his football career came in the 2011 Oregon Class 3A high school playoffs. As a junior starting quarterback for Santiam Christian High School, Schroeder led his team to a title and was later named all-state quarterback, an honor he earned again in 2012. He would go on to earn numerous accolades throughout his high school career, in football and other sports.

As high school graduation drew near in the spring of 2013, football recruiters from most of the Northwest Conference schools, as well as some Division II institutions, came knocking. Schroeder had his pick among celebrated, well-established programs. And yet, he found himself that fall with the inexperienced, unproven Bruins facing the prospect of going an entire year before he could play a single down against another college team. “I still remember the smell of the grass and just the excitement of starting something new,” he says.

Football had not been played at George Fox in 45 years – not since the sport was discontinued after the 1968 season. For years rumors persisted that the school might bring the sport back, but it wasn’t until the university’s board of trustees voted to reinstate the football program in 2010 that its return was made official. “We were going to play to excellence, no matter what.”

Four-year starter Grant Schroeder looks back on his eventful George Fox football career, culminating in the best season in program history

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Inspired by Casey’s emphasis on blue-collar effort, Schroeder and company focused on improving rather than letting the first season define them. Then, in 2015, players began to see the fruits of their labor as the Bruins went 6-4. In 2016, George Fox won more games than it lost. “When we went 5-4 and had our first winning record, everyone said, ‘Oh, that’s awesome,’” Schroeder recalls. “But guys weren’t satisfied. That’s why we’ve continued to grow as a program. We’re never complacent.”

Inspired to make his final season, 2017, his best yet, Schroeder led the team to its best record in program history (7-3) and recognition in the NCAA Division III top-25 rankings for the first time. Along the way, the Bruins knocked off nationally ranked opponents Whitworth University and the University of Redlands and, in October, established school records for most points scored in a single game (58) and largest margin of victory (46 points) in a win over Willamette. Later the same month, a win over Lewis & Clark College set the program record for most wins in a single season, which the Bruins improved upon two weeks later with a final-game victory over the University of Puget Sound.

Individually, Schroeder concluded his career as the school’s all-time record-holder in every passing category, finishing with 7,015 passing yards for a career average of 184.6 yards per game. He also had 77 total touchdowns during his tenure, 21 of which he ran in himself.

This season, Schroeder passed or rushed for 28 touchdowns – tops in the Northwest Conference – to earn a spot on the NWC’s second team. He was also a winner in the classroom, posting a 3.78 GPA as a civil engineering major to land on the 2017 College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Academic All-District Football Team, joining teammate Caleb Daldorph as the first George Fox football players to earn the honor.

While Schroeder’s college football career didn’t include trips to the playoffs or championship rings, the legacy he and the zero-year athletes will leave behind is far grander – one of sacrifice, integrity, service and perseverance.

“I think George Fox football is everything it was meant to be when the vision was created for bringing football back,” Schroeder says. “People have really seen over the last four years what kind of first-class program this is. There were so many times I stopped this season and just said, ‘I am so blessed to be here.’”
Amy Wolff’s yard signs are spreading hope across the nation

By Melissa Binder

On the way home from the hospital last spring, as the family began the ascent into their suburban McMinnville neighborhood, two white yard signs with bold lettering caught their eyes.

“You are worthy of love,” read one.

Your mistakes don’t define you,” read the other.

As they drove in and out of the neighborhood during the painful weeks that followed, those signs seemed hope.

One day in July, the mother parked outside the lawn with the signs, went to the door and knocked. She asked the owner, Jenna Luoto, to come outside. And then she wept.

Those signs were there the day they brought him home.

Her 13-year-old son had attempted suicide that spring, she told Luoto.

“I had a moment that day of thinking, ‘This is so stupid. No one cares about yard signs,’” she says with a laugh. “But I was $120 to the good.”

George Fox University alumna Amy Wolff (’05) couldn’t have imagined that moment when she created the yard signs in May. In fact, she’d worried people would think they were silly. Instead, those simple black and white signs have meant the world to dozens — if not hundreds or thousands — of people who’ve seen them at just the right moment.

The story began about two years earlier, when the idea to create encouraging yard signs popped into Wolff’s mind after reading a book about loving strangers in a radical way. But she wrote it off.

“I had a moment that day of thinking, ‘This is so stupid. No one cares about yard signs,’” she says with a laugh. “But I was $120 in, and I wasn’t going to waste them. I figured, at least they were anonymous, so what was the risk?”

The response was overwhelmingly positive, and Wolff decided to share photos and details on Facebook. Hundreds liked or shared her post, many of them asking to order signs for their own yards.

The encouragement to car decals, stickers, wristbands and cards, all of which she sells at cost. Today, there are more than 1,530 yard signs in the United States and abroad, and Wolff has placed orders for about 10,000 wristbands, 1,500 postcards, 2,500 stickers and 400 decals.

Among the first to order signs and other goods were Peter and Jane Mellors, whose son, in his third year at George Fox, had taken his life that spring.

“When you lose somebody, you want to make a difference,” Jane says. “But we were not — are not — in a position to pull something like that together. Being able to partner with her has been really helpful for our grief.”

The Mellors purchased 30 signs, as well as wristbands and cards, and have been giving them to friends in their Colorado town. It’s given them something to talk about with people at work and at church — people who don’t know what to say to them right now. It’s given them hope that Daniel’s life will not be forgotten.

“Really, it’s a movement,” Wolff says.

The Bible talks about sowing seeds,” Peter says. “That’s exactly what this feels like. You’re planting these little seeds of signs and wristbands in the world, and letting God do with it what he wants.”

Amazingly, Wolff has heard from two strangers who just happened to be passing through that rural area of Colorado and were impacted enough to find her and reach out — just a bit of proof that those seeds are indeed sprouting.

She’s heard from dozens of others, too. A man who felt rejected by his family and community. A single woman who felt hopeless about ever finding a spouse. Two people who were struggling to power through exercise in their neighborhoods after being diagnosed with diabetes or heart disease.

And that’s the beautiful thing about these signs: Whether the viewer is struggling with depression or a tough project at work, the meaning is in the eye of the beholder.

“The movement is not about one thing,” Wolff says. “Local suicide rates are what prompted me to finally make the signs, but it’s not a suicide-prevention movement. Really, it’s meant to speak to everyone.”

The fact that 20 yard signs turned into a “movement” still amazes Wolff.

“I’m just a woman in Newberg. I am the sign lady,” she says, laughing.

Most of the time, Wolff is focused on taking care of her family and running a communications business with her father, which includes several travel days each month to provide public-speaking training around the country. She participates in a small group at church, and she volunteers at her daughter’s school.

But that’s the other beautiful thing about these signs. They’re a reminder that anyone, anywhere, can make a difference.

All you have to do is something.

To order signs and other goods, visit amywolff.com or email info@amywolff.com.
Jael Chambers’ passion for racial reconciliation is making a difference in the lives of young people in Philadelphia

By Sean Patterson

If there’s ever the temptation to get discouraged and give in – to let all the brokenness and heartbreak around him derail the work at hand – Jael K.D.L.V. Chambers (’11) doesn’t let on. He can’t afford to. The need is too great, the stakes too high.

As associate regional director for Young Life in Philadelphia, Chambers sees it all: the fatherless homes, the desperation of “the hood,” the palpable racial and political tension in the city. And yet, he remains unflappable. He’s witnessed too many instances of restoration and reconciliation to lose hope now.

Chambers oversees a staff of nine that carries out the national youth ministry organization’s mission – “to invite kids to follow Christ, care for them regardless of their response, and change lives in the process” – in the nation’s fifth-largest city. Remarkably, there was no Young Life club in Philadelphia when he arrived five years ago to attend graduate school at Eastern University. Today, the ministry, which encompasses after-school meetings at eight middle schools and high schools, as well as three colleges in the city, impacts the lives of between 800 and 1,200 students each month.

While most of his time is dedicated to administrative duties, Chambers still works directly with young people at Esperanza Academy Charter School, a 90-percent Hispanic school where he organizes after-school games and activities, meets with parents and does regular check-ins with students. His twofold goal: to reach kids with the gospel and create spaces for racial reconciliation and cultural education.

“What motivates me? The gospel of Jesus Christ,” says Chambers, who graduated from George Fox with a degree in Christian ministries. “The more I try to understand God’s love for us and his faithfulness to us through Christ, the more I’m driven to seize the opportunity he’s given me to help make a difference in this world.”

That plays out in ways both simple – playing basketball with the kids – and profound, particularly in the area of racial relations. The city itself is starkly divided. Upper North Philadelphia is predominantly Hispanic, with a population of more than 250,000 Dominicans, Puerto Ricans and Mexican Americans. In the western section of the city, more than 90 percent of the population is African American. Still another part of town has a high Muslim population of more than 250,000 Dominicans, Puerto Ricans and Mexican Americans. In the western section of the city, more than 90 percent of the population is African American.

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Chambers’ club meetings are designed to break down the walls that get built in such a segmented landscape. “Everything we do – the games, the icebreakers, the talks – is about breaking down the walls,” Chambers says. “We have schools that are all black or all Hispanic. My goal is to give these kids a glimpse of what heaven is going to look like, so we make a point of showing them a black person can lead up front, a white person can, a Hispanic person can.”

“When they see suburban kids leading alongside urban kids, it’s an aha moment. Seeing that happen – seeing those walls being broken down – is what excites me. It’s what makes me want to get out of bed in the morning.”

Chambers’ passion for racial reconciliation was born out of his own experience. As a kid growing up in a single-parent home in Los Angeles, he had to be mindful of what colors to wear and not wear, who to look at and not look at, which streets to walk on and which to avoid. “It was a matter of survival,” he says. “The racial divide was real. I also grew half of my life without my father around, so I was left to try figuring out what it meant to be a man.”

It wasn’t until his family moved to Portland during his high school years that Chambers found mentors – men like his David Douglas High School basketball coach Chad Reeves, and Portland Leadership Foundation leaders Ben Sand and Anthony Jordan – who were willing to invest in him. “Here’s this coach inviting me into his home, mentor-ing me, pursuing me,” he says of Reeves, a Caucasian. “It was radical and shook my world.”

Chambers’ life took yet another pivotal turn when he was accept-ed into George Fox’s first Act Six cadre and began attending the university in the fall of 2007. The Act Six leadership and scholarship initiative was created to train urban leaders to be “agents of change” in their neighborhoods. The program is conducted in partnership with Portland Leadership Foundation, an affiliate of Young Life.

Upon arriving on campus, Chambers discovered a place that further expanded his definition of what it means to live in community. “It was the first time I was around professors who encouraged me and helped me critically think about my calling,” he says. “All I knew was urban, so now I’m in a place where you really have to critically think those were born out of his own experience.”

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Chambers also relies on his experience and education, including a master’s degree in urban studies, to run his own consulting business, Cultured Enuf, which specializes in educating corporations, nonprofits and small companies in office culture and issues related to diversity in the workplace. “People started offering me jobs,” Chambers says. “They saw my passion for racial reconciliation and recognized their own need, and Cultured Enuf was born. It wasn’t something I planned. Just one of those things that came about.”

Beyond that, it’s a reflection of what Jael Chambers is all about. “I love seeing people from different social, racial and economic backgrounds come together for a common vision. That’s one of the most beautiful pic-tures for me.”
En Sand still remembers getting that phone call in 2005: two teen boys he'd seen commit their lives to Jesus that summer had shot someone, then disappeared.

As a regional Young Life leader in Portland, he'd spent months mentoring these young men. He'd invited them into his home, gone with them to camp. He'd tried to be the Good Samaritan to them, going above and beyond to care for them after systemic and economic injustice knocked them to the side of the road.

"Does this even work?" he thought. A discouraging reality set in. He could pick someone up off the road every day of his life, but they would always have scars, and unless things changed at a systemic level, there would always be someone else left beaten the next morning.

As he studied the parable of the Good Samaritan during that season of confusion, a new set of questions arose for Sand: Why was the road from Jerusalem to Jericho so dangerous in the first place? And what could he do to make sure no one gets left for dead on the side of the road again?

For Sand, the answer lies largely in developing stronger, more diverse leaders for the future—leaders who can help change the systems that serve Oregonians.

"For the systems to change, we have to make a demonstrative investment in ensuring that the leadership of our region reflects the people who live here," Sand says.

So that year, his second at Portland Seminary (now Portland Seminary), from which he earned a Master of Divinity degree in 2010, Sand helped the university establish the Act Six leadership and scholarship initiative, which identifies and supports diverse cohorts of future urban leaders.

"I was just a naive 24-year-old," Sand recalls, laughing. "Through friends, I knew university president Robin Baker was interested in partnering with the Act Six program in Tacoma, Washington. ‘I basically showed up and was like, ‘Don’t! We’ll find you students in partnering with the Act Six program in Tacoma, Washington. ‘I

In recent years, the foundation has also placed emphasis on partnering with local government to more effectively address today’s problems—all while still investing in the leadership of tomorrow.

The key example of this partnership is Embrace Oregon, an initiative that comes alongside the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) to support children and families involved in the foster care system. The initiative began with an idea to create welcome boxes for kids who are pulled out of their homes and brought to a DHS office. These children often wait hours, if not overnight, while a staffer searches to find housing for them, so the boxes include entertaining toys as well as a few basics, such as a toothbrush and flashlight.

"Embrace has been the first organization to really understand and want to take care of the caregivers," says Norene Owens, program manager at the North Clackamas Child Welfare Office. Volunteers have come by her office to clean toys or drop off lunch for the staff, and she remembers receiving a roll of Life Savers candy with a simple note: "Thanks for being a life-saver."

Embrace has provided makeovers for the visitation rooms at several DHS locations, transitioning those key spaces from sterile and outdated to warm and welcoming. The initiative also recruits volunteers to keep kids company at the DHS office, and enlists families to fill more substantial needs, such as fostering a child or committing to support a family long-term.

"To me, it has been nothing short of revolutionary for DHS," Owens says. "Other faith-based groups have tried to get involved in the past, she says, but never in a sustainable way. Sand's energy and vision has filled Owens with hope, and she isn't alone. This year, the foundation signed an agreement with DHS to expand the work of Embrace Oregon to every county by 2022.

"He has a bright intellect and that energy and organizational ability. He can motivate change to happen," Owens says. "This is the best hope we’ve had of breaking the cycles."

In 2014, Sand's involvement with DHS became deeply personal. After months of prayer, he and his wife, Maile—already parents of two girls—decided to foster then-3-month-old Julian, who ultimately became an adopted member of their family.

"Being a foster parent is incredibly hard," Sand says. "It requires people who say, 'I am willing to do hard things with this child even though it will bring pain and confusion and heartache to me and my family.'"

Sand's tireless work through the foundation and at home trace back to his own childhood experiences. One of six siblings raised by a struggling single mother, Sand grew up with the weight of his future on his shoulders. He worked multiple jobs throughout high school and college to provide for himself, and was lucky to have key relationships with mentors who made a huge difference in his life.

Because of his background, he knows it's possible for people to come from challenged situations and not just survive, but thrive in every way—even be a game changer in a city," says friend Kevin Palau, president of the Luis Palau Association and a key player in the growing partnership between the Portland faith community and local government. "His own experience has equipped him to look people in the eye and say, ‘You can’t tell me it’s not possible.’"

Sand believes a lot is possible. While so many people look at the world and are overcome with pessimism, he describes great hope—hope that’s largely rooted in the atonement theology he discovered during his time at George Fox.

"The basic premise is, ‘Listen y’all, Jesus died, descended into hell, put the smack-down on the devil, and defeated death and defeated evil’,” Sand explains. "We are given a gift of the same spirit that raised Jesus from the dead. If that doesn’t produce a sense of optimism and swagger, I don’t know what will.”

And it’s that swagger, he says, that gets him out of bed in the morning.

"Each day I have an opportunity to shine light into the world and work from a place of victory," he says. "I get to do good with a conquering spirit."
ENGINEERING WITH A HEART

George Fox engineers make up the entire product development team for a medical equipment company focused on improving the lives of patients

By Brett Tallman

Diagnosing a heart arrhythmia can be a significant challenge. Arrhythmias come and go, and by the time a patient arrives in the emergency room, the feeling of a fluttering or racing heart has often subsided. With that feeling comes mistrusting electrical currents, recorded by an ECG, that might offer a cardiologist a clue as to the nature of the problem.

“Arrhythmias just don’t present themselves when doctors want them,” says Moore. “In 2006 George Fox graduate (John) Moore. “You can take vitals, order an ECG — but the whole process can take two or three hours and turn up nothing.”

Moore is not a doctor or a nurse. He doesn’t work in a hospital. He’s an electrical engineer at TZ Medical in Portland. In 2009, he helped begin the design process for an in-home cardiac monitor called the Aera CT.

“Several years ago the American Medical Association began to incentivize the development of in-home monitoring products,” Moore explains. “By monitoring patients over several weeks, cardiologists were better able to catch and diagnose arrhythmias.”

TZ Medical has been around since the early 1990s. Today, its business is based around disposable and, increasingly, electronic medical products, many of which are mainstays in hospitals around the world. Moore was hired in 2009 along with another George Fox alumini, Reese Wilson (’08), when the company decided to build a new engineering team to develop the next generation of advanced cardiac monitors.

Moore’s first project was designing and developing the Aera CT. “TZ got started with pacemaker monitors back in the ’90s,” Moore says. “The old ones looked like a big red lunch box.”

The “lunch boxes” were transtelephonic pacemaker monitors. If you had an implanted pacemaker in the ’90s, you’d hook yourself up to the machine, dial the number printed on the lid, place your phone into the cradle of the so-called “lunch box,” and then turn off your pacemaker by holding a large magnet over your heart. The monitor would play your heartbeat directly into the phone, with a technician on the other end recording the data using specialized software.

New cardiac monitors are digital. Using solid state memory, they record a patient’s heart rhythm for up to 30 days. If equipped with a cellular modem, that data can be transmitted directly to cardiologists. “Lunch boxes” were transtelephonic pacemaker monitors. If you had an implanted pacemaker in the ’90s, you’d hook yourself up to the machine, dial the number printed on the lid, place your phone into the cradle of the so-called “lunch box,” and then turn off your pacemaker by holding a large magnet over your heart. The monitor would play your heartbeat directly into the phone, with a technician on the other end recording the data using specialized software.

New cardiac monitors are digital. Using solid state memory, they record a patient’s heart rhythm for up to 30 days. If equipped with a cellular modem, that data can be transmitted directly to cardiologists. The device that Moore helped design would eventually become the Aera CT, the first of a new line of advanced cardiac monitors that would generate a significant amount of revenue for the company.

“The Aera was an eye-opening first product,” Moore says. “It was supposed to take six months and it ended up being a three-year development process.”

When he started, TZ Medical had an engineering department of two: Wilson and Moore. “Our deadline was September. We quickly realized that it was way more work than we could handle on our own.”

So Wilson went to his former professors at George Fox and asked for someone who could help them meet their deadline. Chris Hammond (’08), an electrical engineer who had graduated the previous winter, joined the team as an intern in the spring of 2009. By September, the first prototype for the Aera CT was finished and Hammond had a full-time job.

With the release of the Aera CT, the company’s annual revenue swelled from 19 million to 114 million a year. “As it turned out there was just as much, if not more, mechanical engineering than electrical engineering to do,” Moore says. “And probably even more programming.”

With the budget to begin building an engineering team, Moore went back to the professors at George Fox and asked for another recommendation. In 2013, he hired Mike Morrison (’13), a mechanical engineer. Pleased with the results he was getting from the engineers hired from his alma mater, Moore has gone back, again and again, looking for new talent. With the exception of 2010, TZ Medical has hired a new engineer, all George Fox graduates, every year since 2008. In 2015, the company hired Mike Morrison’s brother Greg (’15), also a mechanical engineer, and in 2016 they recruited computer engineer Dieter Mueller (’16). In 2017, they hired another computer engineer, Drew Camp (’17), added computer science graduate Chase Atkinson (’17), and took on an intern, Austin Ziegler, who will join the TZ Medical engineering team full-time after he graduates in the spring. In all, 13 George Fox graduates have held full-time positions or internships with the company. Five, including Wilson, have moved on to other opportunities.

“It’s turned into a bit of a dynasty here at TZ,” says Moore. All of them laugh when they hear it, but it’s only half joke. Six George Fox engineers make up the entire product development team for a $14 million-a-year company with more than 50 employees, not to mention Atkinson in the computer science department and intern Ziegler.

“We’ve interviewed quite a few people who weren’t from Fox,” Moore says, “but we like getting character references from people we know. It’s always handy to get a personal and professional reference from somebody who has direct experience with their level of skill and ability.”

By hiring so many George Fox graduates, the engineers at TZ Medical are in a unique position to provide feedback to the engineering department. “We end up going to professors and making suggestions,” Hammond says.
By offering their suggestions about the curriculum, Hammond hopes his alma mater can graduate increasingly competitive engineering classes. Likewise, the influx of George Fox graduates has resulted in an engineering team that is focused on helping people–not just the bottom line.

“That, they all agree, is one of the most appealing parts of working at TZ Medical. “We all love being able to actually make a difference in the projects we’re working on,” Hammond says.

And, as the company has grown, the engineering department has been given more and more autonomy to do just that, moving from a management structure where two or three engineers report to the president, to a self-directed engineering team that is run internally.

“We have almost full control over the whole design process within the constraints of regulatory compliance,” Moore says. “It’s an exciting place to work for a new engineer because of how much design you get to do.”

For all their autonomy, the engineers are quick to point out that many of their most innovative ideas were prompted by the doctors, nurses and lab technicians that TZ serves. “TZ has always been designed around partnering with customers,” Moore says. “They’re the ones working in the field, and they’re the ones who can identify a problem.”

“Doctors will come to us with an idea,” Hammond adds, “and even if the idea is, from an engineering perspective, terrible, a lot of times they’ll help us identify a need. Out of this process we’ve gotten some gems.”

A technician in a cath lab, for example, came to the TZ engineers in need of a device that would support his patients’ arms during catheterization and keep them from falling off the tables. His need turned into an entire line of padded polycarbonate supports that TZ Medical now markets as Comfort Zone.

Someone else asked us to come up with an idea to keep pressure on a patient’s arm,” Hammond says, noting that some heart procedures require a technician to run a catheter up a patient’s arm. “After they pull the catheter out the artery is exposed, and someone had to manually apply pressure to the patient’s arm for like four hours. It was just terrible.”

When Greg Morrison joined TZ in 2015, the product the company offered was little more than a zip tie. The engineers knew they could improve it.

“The very first prototype was a fix intended for the old band,” Morrison says. “I went through three or four versions before I decided to scrap it and go with something new.”

Based on feedback from hospital staff, the new design needed to apply pressure more precisely and it needed to be more comfortable.

Beside his desk, Morrison has a cardboard box full of abandoned prototypes. Digging through it, he remembers exactly where an idea began to take shape. The latest iteration is an adjustable radial arm band with a built-in pad for comfort. It is, unequivocally, better than a zip tie.

“I think this is version 56,” Morrison says, laughing. “I started on this basically when I started here, which was three years ago. We’re very close to releasing, but the last 5 percent just takes forever.”

All the engineers agree that one of the great joys in their work is to start with nothing more than an idea and then, later, to hold the thing itself in hand.

“It’s so satisfying to know a device that will,” Morrison says as he examines the nearly finished product.

He pointed out a small curved face to make his point. “It took me forever to figure out how to make all of the faces match up,” he says. “I know exactly how it’s formed. No one thinks about that.”

Regardless of the device in question, any discussion with the engineers at TZ Medical will eventually find its way back to their process, which always starts with the people they’re serving.

“At the end of the day, engineers can start out thinking, ‘I want to build this,’” Morrison says. “They might put a lot of time and energy into building something that nobody needs. So the first step has to be talking to the people you want to help. You need to hear their story. Then, if you do a good job, designs a good product and meet a particular need, there’s a natural demand for it.”

By improving the processes within the hospitals, Moore added, an engineer is also improving the outcomes of their patients.

“This is something that I really value,” Hammond says. “I like the idea behind it: How do we as engineers do service? How do we use the skills God has given us to actually make a difference? The answer, it turns out, is find a job that makes a difference, and then do your job.”

With the connection between George Fox and TZ Medical firmly established, this year the company is sponsoring two senior design projects. One project is being led by interns Ziegler, whose team is designing a small LED that can be adhered to a surgical retractor to help light the areas of an operation site that aren’t illuminated by overhead lamps.

“It was something that we wanted to do at some point,” Hammond says, “so we just handed it off to Austin’s team.” The team has committed to delivering not just a concept or a prototype, but 1,000 manufactured pieces by the end of the spring semester.

“It’s not a normal senior assignment,” Hammond says. “But when they get this thing done and they’ve graduated, they can say they’ve designed a Class I medical device that is on the market. It’s going to be a powerful portfolio piece.”

TZ’s approach has even found traction in the Servant Engineering Program, a staple of any engineering major’s junior-year course load where students develop technical solutions for organizations focused on serving others. It’s hard to say whether George Fox engineers are succeeding at TZ Medical because of the model of service provided at George Fox, or the other way around. But Moore isn’t interested in chicken-or-the-egg questions.

“It’s just cool to see that approach being validated,” Moore says, “to see the human aspect factoring in.”
The Promise Campaign: Building on 125 years

Thank you for helping us surpass our $10.2 million goal!

Supporters of the university joined together in the last year to help George Fox prepare for the influx of students seeking our distinctive, Christ-centered education. Rapid enrollment growth had stretched campus facilities thin, so we asked for your help. Launched in our 125th anniversary year, and completed June 30, 2017, the Promise Campaign aimed to honor our strong foundation and ensure that we can extend our Be Known promise to future generations of students. Due to the generosity of 2,800 supporters – alumni, trustees, employees, parents and community members – the Promise Campaign was a success, enabling future students to study, grow and flourish in a Christ-centered university where they are known. Thank you!

Your gifts impact George Fox students by:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campaign Goal</th>
<th>You Contributed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$10.2 million</td>
<td>$14 million</td>
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Expanding campus facilities to accommodate rapid enrollment growth

Improving affordability through more Student Fund-enabled scholarships

Strengthening the endowment to bolster our long-term financial health for future generations

Enriching learning opportunities through other projects

$4.4 million

$752,000

$6.7 million

$2 million

Of 5,225 donations, we received:

3 commitments of $1 million or more

26 commitments of $100,000 or more

$2.1 million as our largest cash gift

"We are grateful for the people in this community who care deeply about our mission and who are willing to dedicate resources. Thank you for joining us in the promise we make to students to be known here – to be powerfully connected to an academic environment that engages Christ and be presented with a variety of opportunities for the future."

- George Fox University
President Robin Baker

"George Fox University is really focused on preparing the next generation of leaders. It goes well beyond just a four-year education."

- Brad and Katharine Stoffer, Promise Campaign Honorary Co-Chairs

"I think George Fox is the finest Christian school in our state and certainly a wonderful asset in our community."

- Ken Austin, Promise Campaign Honorary Co-Chair

In August, we broke ground on a new student activity center, the cornerstone of the Promise Campaign. This beautiful 40,000-square-foot facility will provide space for students to gather, participate in leadership development and be physically active. The center will include three basketball/volleyball courts, a fitness center, an indoor track, a rock-climbing wall, two yoga/dance/aerobics studios, a student lounge, and offices for student government and clubs.

Your gifts at work

Student Activity Center

Engineering Equipment

The exponential growth of the engineering program in the last decade prompted the creation last year of a new Maker Hub, which included a 6,000-square-foot configurable project-build space. This engineering facility enables students to connect conceptual designs with practical application. Guided by faculty mentors, students work in collaborative, multi-disciplinary teams to design, build and test a variety of prototypes.

Student Fund

Contributions of $752,000 toward the Student Fund bolstered our efforts to make George Fox affordable for more students. This fall, nearly 2,500 students received more than $34 million in university-funded scholarships and grants.

As we celebrate the completion of the campaign, we know the work of making and keeping George Fox affordable for all students is an ongoing quest. With an annual goal of more than $700,000, the Student Fund is now our highest fundraising priority.

Thank You, Honorary Co-Chairs

Special thanks go to our honorary co-chairs for their time and commitment to the Promise Campaign. Your endorsement of George Fox and the wonderful students we serve is deeply appreciated. Though the Promise Campaign officially ended in June, your legacy remains – inspiring students and supporters for years to come.

"Through academic- and financial-need awards from George Fox, I’ve been able to keep the costs of attending my dream school manageable. By going to George Fox, I’ve been able to find who I am as a learner and as a Jesus follower, and I’ve been able to devote hours of service to ASC and the chapel band."

- Bailey Sauls (‘19), psychology major, ASC VP of Commuter Life

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The total number of donors who gave to George Fox increased by more than 83% in the past three fiscal years.

2016-17 DONOR HONOR ROLL (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017)
Thanks to previous campaign donations, total $38,000 of new engineering equipment was purchased for the university’s Maker Hub, including $61,567 for the Wood Shop, $16,000 for the Health Center and $9,000 purchased for the university’s Maker Hub, including $61,567 for the Wood Shop, $16,000 for the Health Center and $9,000 purchased for the university’s Maker Hub.
The number of alumnae and alumnus who gave to George Fox increased by nearly 70% in the past three fiscal years.
Gooette Joins Medical Relief Trip to Haiti

Gooette (MBAT95) had volunteered domestically for various charitable organizations in the past, but a chance meeting on a flight opened the door for him to serve internationally in what is considered the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

This summer, Gooette joined a team of 52 doctors, nurses, paramedics, medical students and nursing students on a six-day International Medical Relief trip to Haiti, a country that continues to feel the aftereffects of an earthquake that ravaged the island in 2010. A member of the medical staff, he took rotations in pharmacy, lab, triage, patient education and eye care, while also shadowing physicians and providing consultation for patients being treated. He is in his 30th year as the M. Lowell Edwards Chair, professor of medicine, director of the Center for Global Health and Wellness at OHSU. Thornburg also serves internationally in what is considered the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

Among the stops in Haiti was an emergency room at Newberg Providence Hospital, where his heart stopped three times. His story helped inspire local police, fire, and parks and recreation leaders to work together to take funds for the installation of AEDs throughout the community.

Scott Celler (G97), after 10 years as vice president of external affairs with TriWest Healthcare Alliance in Phoenix, is now principal and managing director of Phoenix-based Triflecta Communications, started in 2013 to help organizations establish or enhance public relations, government relations and community involvement. Celler also worked 14 years in governmental positions, including five years with U.S. Sens. John McCain and John Kyl, as a communications director and five years as a senior policy advisor with Arizona Governor Jan Brewer.

Janette (Daley) Nwosu (G96, MBA96) in October joined the staff office at Newberg Friends Church as bookkeeper, bringing her background as a finance director for Friends Church as bookkeeper, bringing her background as a finance director for Friends Church in Liberal, Kansas. While in Kansas, Nwosu worked in the development office and the math/science department at Seward County Community College.

Bonnie Jerke (F69), a Fox Federal University administrator for 30 years and nearly all of her professional life, died July 8, 2017, in Washington, Oregon, had been living in the state since 1989, after a full-time career living with Guadalupe and Humboldt Zapotec speakers in southern Mexico. She learned Zapotec language through Ysifutli Bible Translators. The translated New Testament, after a month-long check by the community, was being translated and read aloud in Zapotec by members of local congregations, was sent for publication in June, with an expected 2018 release. In addition to print, the translation will also be available as an audio recording.

Patti (Meiners) Coote (G74), after 24 years of service to her alma mater, retired in October, leaving behind her custodial supervision position at George Fox. Over the years she worked with and tutored new supervisors and more than 230 students, who helped her clean and care for every campus building at one time or another. Her final areas of responsibility were RA Summer Housing and the adjacent Ross Center. Her new plans: “Clean my own house.”

Divonna (G74) and Divonna (Littelfield) Thompson (G75) are living in Marion, Indiana, where, since April, Randy has been with Heart 3 Heart Hospice as a chaplain/music therapist, providing spiritual guidance and support to patients across the state. With a portable keyboard, he plays and sings for patients, tailoring his set list based on their favorite musicians or style of music. Divonna is an enrollment specialist at Indiana Wesleyan University, enrolling students in both online and onsite programs in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Florida. Randy has been a pastor or associate pastor in Friends churches for more than 43 years in Washington, California, Ohio, Kansas and Indiana, the last two and a half years with Bethel Friends Church in Jonesboro, Indiana, after five years with the Friends Church in Liberal, Kansas. While in Kansas, Divonna worked in the development office and the math/science department at Seward County Community College.

Lisa McMinn (G92), author of “Clean my own house,” was diagnosed with appendix cancer, and she moved to her native Montana in 2016 for chemotherapy treatment. While the services and burial were held in Montana, George Fox and Newberg Friends gathered in her honor at a picnic Sept. 23.

Denise (Mills) Lyman (G76), after 14 years of service at Newberg Friends Church, moved across town in October to assume a new position at Friendsview Retirement Community. A bookkeeper and receptionist at the church, she now works in accounts payable at the 500-plus resident senior community.

By Barry Hubbell

1940–49

Bob Hartford (G69), who suffered and survived a cardiac arrest, was the subject of a lengthy feature article in May in The Newberg Graphic, as part of a series bringing attention to the need for automated external defibrillators in the community. The local businessman, owner of his own insurance company and a 20-year member of the Newberg City Council, was revived on April 23, 2011, in the emergency room at Newberg Providence Hospital, where he had spent several months of his life at that time.

His story helped inspire local police, fire, and parks and recreation leaders to work together to take funds for the installation of AEDs throughout the community.

1960–69

Fred Gregory (G66) and Kent Thombs (G67) coauthored an article published in May in the Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences. The consensus statement reports on the development of global vaccination in the developed world. The consensus statement reports on the development of global vaccination in the developed world. The consensus statement reports on the development of global vaccination in the developed world.

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friendship, he moved up from his position as an assistant coach and won two NCAA Division I World Series titles.

Pat Casey (G90), head coach of the Oregon State University baseball program, continues to rack up milestones and honors while receiving national attention in his 30th year as a college baseball coach. In 2017, he was named the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association Coach of the Year, the first time he received this honor. In 2015, he was named the Pacific-12 Coach of the Year. He also reached a career milestone in 2017, winning his 1,000th win in May and finishing the spring with a career record of 2,082-745-1. This season his team went 56-8, including a stretch in which they won 29 consecutive games and set a conference record with 27 Pacific-12 wins. The Beavers were also the nation’s No. 1-ranked team going into the NCAA College World Series. Casey coached the Bruins from 1990–99.

Duane Larson (G90), following 15 years as assistant principal, is now the principal of Alice Ott Middle School in Portland, part of the David Douglas School District. Oregon’s 2015 Vice Principal of the Year now leads the school of 720 students and 45 teachers. A graduate of David Douglas High School, he returned to the district in 1991 as a sixth-grade teacher. In 1997, he transferred to become a middle-school math teacher while assuming the role of an administrative intern at elementary schools from 1999 to 2002.

Rich Seiber (G90) in January published his third book, a personal story following two novels. Parker’s Story: Essays on Autism and Parenting tells the story of his son, born with autism, cerebral palsy and brain malformation. Written in a devotional style, it features key Bible verses and instructions on how readers can apply the lessons learned to their own lives. “My son’s perseverance and personality have made him a hero and inspiration to many,” Seiber writes. Now self-employed and living in North Highlands, California, Seiber has 26 years of experience in media, including seven years as a PBS television reporter.

Miguel Rivera (G30) is chair of the accounting department at Hodgers University, with campuses in Naples and Fort Myers, Florida, where he teaches accounting and finance. The 2,000-student university caters to adults with full-time jobs, providing day, evening and weekend classes and online self-paced learning. He joined the college’s Paramount Education Business in 2002. With a PhD in accounting from Sarasota University (2008), he previously held faculty positions at Florida Southern College, Inter-American University of Puerto Rico and Embry-Riddle University. He was inducted into the George Fox University Sports Hall of Fame in 2003 for his baseball success as a sophomore, where he earned NAIA All-American honorable mention honors.

Rich Swinglet (G98), who has been performing his one-man play about Churchill of Fire for more than a decade, has created the website

Kerry (Allaust) Rrocz (G96) is in her second year supervising student teachers in Oregon State University’s education department after recently leaving Linn-Benton Community College, where she spent the last three years teaching a class for parents of toddlers. Previously, she had a successful 14-year run as head women’s basketball coach at George Fox (1996-2010), where she spent 12 years as a fourth- and fifth-grade teacher in Newberg. Scott, now the head coach of OSU’s women’s basketball program, joined the team as head coach in 2012.

Kerry’s athletic success also includes a 16-month period in 2005 and 2006 when she was assistant to the mayor of Salem, Oregon. West, who received a law degree from Lewis & Clark College in 1999, previously practiced law in McMinnville, Oregon, with her husband, Mark, who serves as a judge in Yamhill County. She left a position as an administrative services manager for the Marion County (Oregon) Board of Commissioners.

If in the near future you encounter information about the history of African Americans in Oregon, there’s a good chance it was shaped in some way by George Fox University graduate Kimberly Moreland (MBA‘14).

In recent years, Moreland has become a compiler of important sites to African American history in Oregon, a historical book, an app guide, and a leader of the statewide Oregon Black Pioneers organization. Her latest project is curating an exhibit at the Oregon Historical Society in Portland, set to open in early 2018. Another project, published in 2016, may be somewhat surprising considering she is not a member of any African American. Recently, Moreland’s past for her busy schedule. “You receive so many blessings from giving to others.”

Merrill Pursues Passion to Preserve Local African-American History

Moreland also wrote a book, 40km Americans of Portland, published in 2013. The 12-page pictorial history took more than a year to complete and includes captions beneath each photo depicting the African-American community from the late 1800s to the Vanport flood in 1948. For her day job, Moreland is a project manager with Portland, working in the Entrepreneurial and Community Economic Development Department. Much of her work involves implementing the NINE Community Development Initiative Action Plan focused on economic prosperity for people of color in North and Northeast Portland, including connecting property and business owners to programs that provide technical assistance and funding to help grow their businesses. Both she and her husband of 30 years, Michael Moreland (MBA‘97), are active at Mount Olivet Baptist Church. Both are deacons, help in the welcome ministry, and are leaders of the church community. “You receive so many blessings from giving to others.”

The Caddys select the music and lead the sing- ing. Kerri is also heavily involved with roller derby on the base, hoping to go to the World Cup in 2018 with Team Japan.

Michael Moreland (MBA‘97) is active at Mount Olivet Baptist Church. Both are deacons, help in the welcome ministry, and are leaders of the church community. “You receive so many blessings from giving to others.”

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Al Stefan (PhD ’05, EdS ’05) is the new principal of Beaverton Christian School, the first fall after 12 years as principal of the school, he spent time at Seattle Children’s Hospital undergoing brain surgery and the subsequent recovery. “That experience was incredibly defining in my own life, so when I had this opportunity to work with amazing kids from Doernbecher. I felt an immediate bond with them and their families,” he says.

That bond was especially close with Sophia. “She has the same scar as I do on the back of her head, so that was a very cool connection.”

The Doernbecher project is something I will remember as one of the highlights of my career,” Wilmot continues. “At Nike was always the dream job for me. Being able to fuse together my love for sport and my love for design with a non-profit organization based in Chicago. She is an entrepreneur-turned-business Galina M. M. Co., a non-profit organization based in Federal Way, Washington. For two years after practicing in the San Francisco area, he has spent his graduate studies at the Willamette University College of Law and now works with The Carlson Law Group in Beaveroton, Oregon.

Mike Nadeau (G00) has been named head baseball coach at Cal State University, San Bernardino, moving from Seattle University, where he was for five years, the last three of which he had been head coach at Pierce College in Puyallup, Washington, for two years earlier and was an assistant coach at the University of Washington for one year and on staff at Shoreline Community College for four years. For the last 20 years, he has had five years experience with low self-esteem, depression, anxiety and even thoughts of suicide, reminding students that they are not alone, that people care, and they are worthy of love and belonging. “If part of something’s saying hopefully making a difference,” he said in a feature article in June in The Newberg Graphic.

Debra (Henri) Scipio (ADP00, MBA04) in June was named one of 15 for the 2015 class of the Corporate Diversity Initiative exploring the integration of faith and work sponsored by the Newberg School District, which recently had five within a year. He shares his own experience with low self-esteem, depression, anxiety and even thoughts of suicide, reminding students that they are not alone, that people care, and they are worthy of love and belonging. “If part of something’s saying hopefully making a difference,” he said in a feature article in June in The Newberg Graphic.

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Lyle Railbait (G02) was selected as one of the “Top 40 Under 40 Tastemakers” of 2017 by Wall Street Journal. He is national sales manager for the wine importer Kermit Lynch of Berkeley, California. He is a wine writer, and owns and operates Five Wines with his brother. He also designs wine labels for a number of wines and produced the book Drink Pink! A Celebration of Rosé, published by HarperCollins.

Carol Heintz (M02) is president and one of six senior clinicians on the eight-member therapist staff at Olympia Therapy Solutions, which opened its second office in 2017. She also serves as director and adjunct professor for the therapy certification program at the University of Lacey in Seattle, in addition to holding an adjunct position at Central Washington University in Ellensburg.

Carrie Hall (G06) moved to the Fox River campus as assistant professor of education for the fall quarter. She taught five through eighth grades at Bridge Middle School in Portland, where she lives, after four years teaching first and fourth graders at School District 80 in Meridian, Idaho. She is currently working on a PhD program with the Center on Disabilities and Human Development at the University of Idaho, with a focus on neurodevelopmental disabilities and special education.

Christy (Miller) Runnel (G09) and Tobin Runnel (G05) in June opened their own medical practice, Ambassadors Health Alliance, in Corvallis, Oregon. It offers osteopathic medicine, functional medicine and manual management therapy, with the goal of giving back to medical missions organizations through patient-directed giving. He completed his medical degree at the University of the Coptic Medicine of the Pacific in Penoma, California, in 2009, then completed his family practice residency through Samathit Health Services in Corvallis and was an osteopathic physician and surgeon with Crossroads Premier Healthcare. She earned a master’s degree in nursing from Vanguard University, specializing as a family nurse practitioner, and has taken advanced courses in functional medicine, for which she is now in the process of gaining national certification.

Dick Sartwell (JD04) in July was named to the board of the Clark College Foundation in Vancouver, Washington. He is president and founder (in 2009) of Ambassador Wealth Management, an independent financial planning firm, also in Vancouver, where he has lived for 25 years. Prior to that, he was vice president of implementation with ADP in Bend. Navis offers a reservation sales system for the North American lodging industry.

Jared Meidal (MA13) is the new assistant principal at Alcoe Ott Middle School in Portland, part of the David Douglas School District. She worked the previous 13 years at Fir Ridge Campus, an alternative high school in Portland, where she was assistant principal the last three years.

Kristina Tucker (MA13) is the new assistant principal at Banks High School, and the first woman with that title in its 78-year history. “I didn’t grow up saying ‘I want to be a college president,’” Tucker adds. “My passion is helping people move beyond their fears, and the woman with that title in its 78-year history was a spring honors convocation. A faculty member of the 1,300-student school since 2011, Harris was named to roles as deputy officer in charge and vice president of administration.

Brice Carpenter (ADB07) in July was named vice president of client services at Navis in Bend. It’s a move up from his previous position as director of client services, which he held for nearly two years. He started with Navis in 2011 as a client advocate. Previously, for three and a half years, he was director of implementation with Adidas and MVP System, a marketing consulting firm in Bend, Navis offers a reservation sales system for the North American lodging industry, using software solutions and services that often provide the words needed in the support to serve in this new leadership role to help the campus community fulfill its mission and vision,” she says.

“For me, I count it a humble privilege to be able to serve in this new leadership role to help the campus community fulfill its mission and vision,” she says. “I look at this and say it’s an honor to be able to serve in this new leadership role to help the campus community fulfill its mission and vision,” she says.

While at George Fox, Harris had the opportunity to learn firsthand from former university president David Brandt (1997-2007), who is an assistant professor and women’s soccer coach from 2010 to 2013 after being a senior auditor with Deloitte from 2005 to 2010.

Prior to George Fox, Harris received a master of theological studies degree from Calvin Theological Seminary after earlier receiving a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Calvin College. In the Philippines, she was with Christian Reformed World Missions in partnership with the Asian Theological Seminary in Manila, serving as a professor of biblical studies and Christian education in addition to roles as deputy officer in charge and vice president of administration.

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Woo Honored by Oregon Independent Film Festival

Quincy Woo (G17) calls his film Us. Then, “an extracurricular side project.” The Oregon Independent Film Festival called it the best dramatic short film of the year in its 2017 competition, honoring Woo and his work at awards ceremonies in September.

A cinema and media communication major, Woo directed, filmed and edited the 17-minute film in his final semester at George Fox. The film took four weeks to produce and was followed by months of editing, with the assistance of classmates “who were just as crazy and excited to help me out,” says Woo. The resulting film won the 18th annual Fox Film Festival Best Picture award in 2018.

Woo toured the garden a little more than a year ago and filmed his own short video which caught the eye of officials at the Japanese garden. “They really enjoyed the video and contacted me about possibly working together to produce a video for the garden itself,” Woo says. The result was a short film about a day in the life of the garden, though it actually took three days to film the people who curate and take care of the gardens daily.

“We decided to focus on the story behind the scenes and the many hands it takes to create and run such a beautiful location in Portland,” says Woo. “It took two weeks of filming and five weeks to finalize the film.”

Raymond De Silva (G18, PSU) received the 2017 Fox Excellence Award at the eighth annual Multnomah County (Oregon) Employee Recognition Awards ceremony. Received complimentary flowers from Rachael Kafcany, the citation notes the way he champions diversity and equity through leadership of the Employee Resource Group (ERG). As chair since 2015, he has organized more than 35 meetings and events and created safe spaces for healing and dialogue around issues in the community, the award notes.

Kathi Gatlin (ADP07, MEd12, PsEd16) has combined her graduate degrees in education and spiritual formation to found a new ministry/corporation: Boldly Loved. As spiritual director and group formation leader, the endeavor offers spiritual formation classes, a website with digital prayer and journaling retreats, and a companioning community comprised of groups of the facilitator’s meetings through a web-based conference two hours weekly for 15 weeks, followed by four-hour retreats. Gatlin began her work in the George Fox registrar’s office for nine years. Hish is spiritual director for students at Portland Community College and pastoring at North Valley Friends Church for 15 years.

Melissa (Keasey) Marsh (G09, MAT10) is in her third year as spiritual director and coordinator of women’s ministry at First Church of the Nazarene in Pasadena, California. She has been with the church since June 2013, when she started as an administrative assistant for women’s ministries. Previously, she was an administrative assistant of events management. Previously, she was a teacher at Alliance Judy in Eugene. In 2012, she received a PhD in Religion at University Press of Kansas. Called the first holistic, wide-angle picture of the Christian legal movement in the United States, his 224-page book tells the story of the growth of the legal and the development of legal advocacy as a tool of social and political engagement. He recently discussed the book with Tiffany Behary in a presentation. “The Politics of the Christian Conservative Legal Movement,” Behary is an assistant professor of political science at John Brown University in Silkam Springs, Arkansas, starting in that position in 2018 after two years at Eastern Kentucky University and after receiving a PhD in political science and government from Southern Illinois University in 2013.

Tiffany Behary (G03) was called “One of Hoopla’s All-Time Greats” in an Aug. 6 sports headline in the Salem, Oregon, Statesman Journal. The annual 3-on-3 street basketball tournament in Salem is believed to be the second-largest of its kind in the United States, with this year’s 19th annual event drawing nearly 4,000 teams and 4,000 participants. Bebany’s handpicked team won the title in her division – her fifth in a row. She’s been a competitive since graduate school after playing for former Bruin coach Scott Raice. Bebany is the head basketball coach and director of basketball operations as head girls’ basketball coach at Westview High School in Beaverton, Oregon, a post she held two years before one year as assistant. It’s part of a career change, as she has a master’s degree in Emergency Medical Technician program in preparation to become a firefighter.

Angea Kanto (G08) in August left her position as office manager for the Northern Yearly Meeting of Friends in Newberg to move across town to become a student at George Fox University.

Emily Salley (MAd09), who earned her master’s degree in school counseling, has returned to campus as visiting assistant professor of school counseling, starting this fall. She has a master’s degree in elementary school counseling from the University of Portland and a master’s degree in school counseling from the University of Oregon.

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tute teacher for two years with the Lincoln County (Oregon) School District in her native Toledo, Oregon. 

Lorie Brubaker (MAT41) this fall began as coordinator of George Fox’s Science Outreach Program. For the last five years she was a teacher at Veritas School in Newberg, giving instruction in nine subject areas. Previously, she was an educational assistant in the reading programs at Dunedin (Oregon) Elementary School for five years and an educational assistant in local schools. The Science Outreach Program provides youth science classes, science equipment loans to public and private schools and teachers and home-school parents, lab and facility use, and a portable planetarium.

Adam Conley (EDD12) June joined the Boise State University Center for Professional Development as corporate partnership manager. He is working on the center’s Meridian, Idaho, campus. With experience as an account manager and business developer, he most recently was business development manager for Fanatics Media, a digital and influencer-engagement agency in Carlsbad, California. In his new role, he handles busines- es and organizations design and implement courses and programs focused on leadership and industrial manufacturing sector. He gained experience as a freelance writer for nonprofit organiza- tions and small businesses.

Nick Luchterhand (MAT13) is now an optometric physician in his hometown of Vancouver, Washington, practicing with his father at Mountain View EyeCare Center. He received a doctor of optometry degree in May 2016 from Pacific University. Since the last two years. She also has served as a teacher for adoption and children’s services. Her previous municipal experience includes election to the Triad Water District Commission, on which she served for nine years before moving.

Brittany Sarker (GJ13) has rejoined her alma mater as associate director of sport marketing. From 2013 to 2016, she was with the Luis Palau Association in Beaverton, Oregon, working toward state licensure as a clinical psychologist, with an anticipated completion date of spring 2018. Her experience includes election to the Triad Water District Commission, on which she served for nine years before moving.

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football at George Fox University. As a former athlete, he understands the importance of physical fitness and health, which he promotes through his coaching role.

Kurt Montgomery (G91) is an attorney and has been practicing law in Portland since 1991. He is a member of the Oregon State Bar and has served as a judge in Multnomah County.

Michelle Maurer (G80) is a real estate agent in Portland and has been an active member of the Portland Association of Realtors for over 20 years. She is dedicated to her profession and works hard to help her clients find the perfect property.

Erik Nelson (G81) is a former professional athlete and has been working in the construction industry for over 30 years. He is currently a project manager for a large construction company in Portland.

Leslie Olson (G82) is a former track and field athlete and has been coaching high school athletes for over 20 years. She is dedicated to helping her students reach their full potential.

Linda Olney (G83) is a former basketball player and has been involved in community service and leadership roles for over 40 years. She is currently the director of a local non-profit organization.

Kevin Olinger (G84) is a former football player and has been working in the corporate world for over 30 years. He is currently the CEO of a large corporation.

Kevin Ollis (G85) is a former basketball player and has been working in the public sector for over 25 years. He is currently the director of a large government agency.

Kim Oppenhius (G86) is a former tennis player and has been working in the entertainment industry for over 30 years. She is currently the CEO of a major entertainment company.

Kurt Orton (G87) is a former baseball player and has been working in the financial industry for over 25 years. He is currently the CEO of a large financial firm.

Linda Orth (G88) is a former softball player and has been working in the education sector for over 20 years. She is currently the superintendent of a large school district.

Kurt Orth (G89) is a former football player and has been working in the corporate world for over 30 years. He is currently the CEO of a large corporation.

Kevin Otterson (G90) is a former track and field athlete and has been working in the technology sector for over 20 years. He is currently the CEO of a major technology company.

Lee Otte (G91) is a former basketball player and has been working in the legal sector for over 20 years. He is currently a partner at a major law firm.

Kerry O’Toole (G92) is a former soccer player and has been working in the healthcare sector for over 30 years. She is currently a senior executive at a major healthcare company.

Lee Ott (G93) is a former volleyball player and has been working in the finance sector for over 25 years. He is currently a partner at a major finance firm.

Laura Otvos (G94) is a former tennis player and has been working in the business sector for over 20 years. She is currently a senior executive at a major business company.

Kevin O’Toole (G95) is a former basketball player and has been working in the technology sector for over 20 years. He is currently the CEO of a major technology company.

Kevin O’Toole (G96) is a former track and field athlete and has been working in the corporate world for over 30 years. He is currently the CEO of a large corporation.

Kevin O’Toole (G97) is a former soccer player and has been working in the healthcare sector for over 20 years. She is currently a senior executive at a major healthcare company.

Kevin O’Toole (G98) is a former tennis player and has been working in the finance sector for over 25 years. He is currently a partner at a major finance firm.

Kevin O’Toole (G99) is a former volleyball player and has been working in the business sector for over 20 years. She is currently a senior executive at a major business company.

Kevin O’Toole (G100) is a former baseball player and has been working in the legal sector for over 20 years. He is currently a partner at a major law firm.

Kevin O’Toole (G101) is a former track and field athlete and has been working in the technology sector for over 20 years. He is currently the CEO of a major technology company.

Kurt O’Toole (G102) is a former basketball player and has been working in the finance sector for over 25 years. He is currently a partner at a major finance firm.

Kevin O’Toole (G103) is a former soccer player and has been working in the healthcare sector for over 20 years. She is currently a senior executive at a major healthcare company.

Kevin O’Toole (G104) is a former tennis player and has been working in the business sector for over 20 years. She is currently a senior executive at a major business company.

Kevin O’Toole (G105) is a former volleyball player and has been working in the technology sector for over 20 years. He is currently the CEO of a major technology company.

Kevin O’Toole (G106) is a former baseball player and has been working in the legal sector for over 20 years. He is currently a partner at a major law firm.

Kevin O’Toole (G107) is a former track and field athlete and has been working in the technology sector for over 20 years. He is currently the CEO of a major technology company.

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Kevin O’Toole (G109) is a former tennis player and has been working in the finance sector for over 25 years. He is currently a partner at a major finance firm.

Kevin O’Toole (G110) is a former volleyball player and has been working in the business sector for over 20 years. She is currently a senior executive at a major business company.

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Kevin O’Toole (G113) is a former soccer player and has been working in the healthcare sector for over 20 years. She is currently a senior executive at a major healthcare company.

Kevin O’Toole (G114) is a former tennis player and has been working in the business sector for over 20 years. She is currently a senior executive at a major business company.

John Robert Davis (G01) and Mark Wagner, a boy, Andrew, Aug. 16, 2017, in Randle, Washington.

Jessica (Hagedorn) Conklin (n74), Nov. 21, 2016, in Newberg, Oregon.

Carol (Avery) Beck (G05), Oct. 31, 2016, in Salem, Oregon.


Morelli, a boy, Ezekiel Allen, Aug. 12, 2016, in Canby, Oregon.

Genevieve Headley (G12), a girl, Jordan, May 5, 2017, in Oregon City, Oregon.

Hannah Adderley (G12), Aug. 13, 2016, in Portland.

Spencer Alexander (G06) and Anders Sorestad (G17), Aug. 2, 2016, in Vancouver, Washington.

Christopher Brown (G16) and Danielle Brown, a girl, Maddison Michelle Christine, May 19, 2018, in Keizer, Oregon.

Yenny Arista (MATA15) and Adam Arista, a boy, Dempany Adam, Jan. 12, 2017, in Beaverton, Oregon.

Emily (Twynn) Edwards (G07) and Kurt Byrd, a girl, Teeva Renee, Aug. 27, 2017, in Portland.

Emily (Fong) Snyder (G06) and Jeremy Snyder (G07), a boy, Miles Scott, May 18, 2017, in Newberg, Oregon.

Mandy (Golden) Gustafson (G15) and Matt Gustafson (G16), a girl, Lennon, June 2, 2016, in Canby, Oregon.

Kirt Grover (G05) and Sara Grover, a girl, Mariah Joy, April 21, 2017, in Canby, Oregon.

Kirk Grover (G05) and Sara Grover, a girl, Mariah Joy, April 21, 2017, in Canby, Oregon.

Dianna (Smith) (G01) and Cameron Headley (G04), a boy, Maddox, May 17, 2012, in Hillsboro, Oregon.

Lauren Kays (G15) and Elijah Lawson, Aug. 26, 2017, in Canby, Oregon.

Kira Wright (G15), Aug. 7, 2016, in Damascus, Oregon.

Katie Culbertson (G15) and John “Jack” Culbertson (G16), a girl, Madison, June 7, 2017, in Vancouver, Washington.

Andie Avery (G16) and Mikael Pattee (student), Aug. 4, 2017, in Chehalis, Washington.

Never give up. Never give in. Give every year and make a difference every day.
Last year, we set out to raise $10.2 million. You came through, and together we raised $14 million – enabling George Fox to fulfill our Be Known Promise to even more students!

Celebrate with us! Watch the campaign recap video at georgefox.edu/promise

Be known for the difference you make.
A New Place to Be Known

With undergraduate enrollment reaching a record 2,414 students this fall, university leaders faced a choice: funnel more students into off-campus housing, or take on the significant expense and risk of building a new residence hall. After much consideration they chose the latter, citing a commitment to spiritual growth and delivering on the university’s Be Known promise as the primary motivating factors.

“This new residence hall will allow more students the opportunity to experience the spiritual formation we have found so often accompanies life on campus,” said university president Robin Baker when the news broke in December.

Plans call for the new residence hall to be located on the east side of campus, creating a residential quad when combined with existing dorms Le Shana, Gulley and Brandt. Other details are still to be determined. The structure (pictured here on the far right) will be a four- or five-story building and will accommodate between 150 and 200 beds. But one thing is certain: it will be complete by fall 2019, just in time to welcome the Class of 2023 to campus.